

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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BOMBAY 3272 FOLLOWS.SENT TO NEW DELHI FOR ACTION ON 28 DEC 76.
BEING RPT FOR YOUR ACTION/INFO.

QUOTE

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E.O. 11652 N/A
TAGS: PINT, IN
SUBJ: CONGRESS (R) FORMS GOVERNMENT IN GUJARAT

1. OUR INITIAL SOUNDINGS THAT GPCC SOURCES AND A REVIEW OF THE AVAILABLE DATA INDICATE THAT THE MADHAVSINH SOLANKI CABINET IN GUJARAT STATE DIFFERS SHARPLY IN MANY RESPECTS FROM ITS PREDECESSORS.
 2. SOLANKI IS THE SEVENTH CHIEF MINISTER SINCE GUJARAT STATE WAS FORMED IN 1960 AND HIS CABINET IS CONSIDERED TO REFLECT MRS. GANDHI'S DESIRE TO GIVE A LARGER SHARE OF POWER TO SOCIO-ECONOMICALLY WEAKER AND YOUNGER ELEMENTS IN THE PARTY.
 3. SOLANKI'S THREE TIER 18 MEMBER CABINET IS A CLEAR BREAK FROM THE PAST IN TERMS OF COMPOSITION. FOR THE FIRST TIME, SOCIO-ECONOMICALLY WEAKER SECTIONS RECEIVED SIGNIFICANT REPRESENTATION
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IN THE CABINET. INCLUDING SOLANKI FIVE KSHATRIYAS (SMALL FARMERS AND LANDLESS CLASSES) AND TWO EACH FROM THE SCHEDULED TRIBES AND THE SCHEDULED CASTES HAVE PORTFOLIOS.

4. SOLANKI TEAM IS THE YOUNGEST GUJARAT HAS EVER HAD:TEN OF THE 18 MINISTERS ARE BELOW 50; FOUR OF THEM ARE IN THEIR

THIRTIES. ONLY ONE IS ABOVE 60.

5. WITH SEVEN MINISTERS, THE SAURASHTRA REGION HAS A LARGER CABINET REPRESENTATION THAN AT ANY TIME IN THE PAST. SEVENTEEN OF THE 18 MINISTERS REPRESENT RURAL CONSTITUENCIES. ONLY AHMEDABAD CITY HAS A MLA IN THE NEW GOVERNMENT. RECENT GOVERNMENTS HAVE HAD AT LEAST SIX CABINET SLOTS FILLED BY URBAN CONSTITUENCIES.

6. TWELVE OF THE 18 MINISTERS ARE BOTH FIRST OR SECOND TERMERS IN THE LEGISLATURE AND FIRST TERM CABINET MEMBERS. HIS CABINET MEMBERS ARE INDIVIDUALLY CONSIDERED NONCONTROVERSIAL. ONE HAS A CPM BACKGROUND WHILE THE REST ARE NOT KNOWN FOR ANY STRONG IDEOLOGICAL LEANINGS.

7. ALL GPCC FACTIONS ARE REPRESENTED IN THE CABINET WITH LION'S SHARE (11 POSTS) GOING TO SOLANKI, FOUR POSTS TO SUPPORTERS OF HITENDRA DESAI AND TWO TO CHIMANBHAI PATEL ADHERENTS. SOLANKI SELECTED A HITENDRA DESAI LOYALIST AS HIS NUMBER TWO. FORMER GUJARAT CHIEF MINISTER CHIMMANBHAI PATEL, WHO STILL IS NOT READMITTED TO THE CONGRESS (R), PLAYED IMPORANTN ROLE IN CABINET FORMATION AND SUCCEDED IN MANAGING BERTHS FOR TWO OF HIS FORMER KMLP COLLEAGUES. LOCAL GUJARATI PRESS ROUCES BELIEVE THAT PATEL WILL SOON BE READMITTED TO CONGRESS (R). ONE OTHER (CONGRESS-O) OF THE 30 NEW MLP ENTRANTS INTO THE GPCC FOUND A CABINET SLOT.

8. ON BALANCE WITH ALL THE MAJOR FACTIONAL LEADERS REPRESENTED IN THE CABINET, THE CHANCES FOR A STABLE GOVERNMENT SEEM GOOD.
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9. BIODATA ON THE NEW CABINET MEMBERS IS UNDER PREPARATION.
COURTNEY

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